

Lifting of emergency a must to implement electoral roadmap

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commission (EC) should complete its work for delimiting the parliamentary constituencies by June so that the next general election could be held by December, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said emergency would have to be lifted to implement the roadmap as announced by the EC. The roundtable titled 'The EC-

announced roadmap: Its implementation' was organised by Shujan, a civil society initiative to promote good governance, at the National Press Club in the city.

Transparency International Bangladesh Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said EC should give more attention to its election roadmap.

"It is very important to delimit the parliamentary constituencies and prepare correct voter list. But

the general election will have to be held by December because there is confusion among people over the election," he added.

Shujan General Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said it is a right decision to delimit the constituencies, but EC should be more aware about its roadmap and move forward to hold the next general election by December.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan, adviser to a former caretaker government,

said EC should be more serious so that it can hold the general election according to its roadmap.

Other participants said only political leaders will have to run the country, otherwise democracy will not be established.

ASM Shahjahan, Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Dr Abdur Razzak, GM Kader and Columnist Syed Abul Maksud also spoke on the occasion.



TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are columnist Syed Abul Maksud and Shujan General Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder and on his left are former adviser ASM Shahjahan and former adviser M Hafiz Uddin Khan.

BISHWA IJTEMA Fire at foreign guests' camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the three camps for foreign guests at Bishwa Ijtema ground in Tongi was gutted by a fire creating panic among the devotees yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire broke out at about 11:45am.

Three units of Fire Services and Civil Defence fought for about half an hour to extinguish the blaze.

The fire originated from short circuit during electric wiring.

Soon after the fire, members of law enforcement agencies rushed to the spot and kept the situation under control.

Tongi police said no casualty was reported.

The Ijtema is scheduled to begin on January 25.

Acid violence against housewife protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Society for The Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) yesterday condemned the acid violence against a housewife by her husband at Mirpur in the city.

The news was published on the January 22 issue of the daily Manabjama, says a BSEHR press release.

Acting Secretary General of BSEHR Nurul Islam and Executive Director Advocate Alena Khan in a statement also demanded proper investigation into the incident and punishment to the persons responsible.

The release said one Zakir Hossain of Mirpur married Ruma Akhter seven months ago and he had been pressing her for dowry since their marriage.

However, when Ruma divorced Zakir recently, he threw acid on her to take revenge.

UODA Pharmacy Week 2008

The University of Development Alternative (UODA) is organising a seven-day Pharmacy Week 2008 that began on Saturday, says a press release.

UODA President Mujib Khan and Managing Director of Unihealth and Unimade Masaddek Hossain inaugurated the Week.

The programmes organised to mark the Week feature scientific exhibition, cultural function, seminar, debate competition, publication of memoir and sports events.

The festival will conclude on January 25.



Open garbage trucks ply the streets in the port city at daytime, posing environmental hazards to the commuters and passers-by, but the authorities concerned have turned a blind eye. The picture was taken yesterday.

'Initiate new trend in politics for better future'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for initiating a new trend in politics for a better future of the country.

They also emphasised the need for pursuing politics against political criminalisation.

The seminar titled 'Political criminalisation in Bangladesh perspective' was organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) on the occasion of the first anniversary of the present caretaker government at RCCI auditorium.

Rajshahi University (RU) Vice-chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain attended the seminar as chief guest while RU political science teacher Dr Tarek M Tawfikur Rahman presented the keynote paper.

Former VC of Islamic University in Kushtia Prof M Rafiqul Islam, former Rajshahi mayor Abdul Hadi, RU economics teacher Dr. KBM Mahbubur Rahman, social science dean M Sadekul Islam, Bangladesh Medical Association's Rajshahi unit President Dr Wasim Hossain, journalists Mostafizur Rahman Khan, Hasan Millat, Nazib Wadud and Anisuzzaman spoke on the occasion.

PIB Director General Mohammad Nazrul Islam chaired the programme.

The speakers said there is no alternative to an elected government to ensure democracy and accountability of politicians.

They also called for raising people's purchasing power in view of the price spirals of essentials.

Murder of 3-year girl in Ctg condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari (KN) strongly condemned the murder of a three-year old girl in Cox's Bazar and demanded immediate arrest as well as exemplary punishment of the culprit, says a press release.

President of KN Shirin Akhtar and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir, in a joint statement yesterday, expressed their concern over the murder of three-year old Priaymni of Tutiakhali village under Chokoria upazila in Cox's Bazar.

Giashuddin, son of Mohammad Ali, of Tutiakhali village of the upazila allegedly murdered her to hide his misdeed, as he is responsible for her birth.

Include early childhood dev in school curriculum

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar yesterday suggested incorporating the topic of early childhood development into high school textbooks and training the primary school teachers on this issue.

As the development in early childhood has a great impact on a person's future life and activities, it is important to properly take care of children in order to ensure their proper mental and physical growth, they said, adding that every school should have an educational psychologist for this purpose.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organised the seminar on 'Early Childhood Development (ECD)' at Biam auditorium in association with the Terre des Hommes (TdH) Netherlands, stressing the need to raise awareness among parents about this issue.

Presenting the keynote paper, Shahin Islam of Save the Children-USA said early childhood development is the complete physical and mental development of a child from its embryo to eight-year-old.

"The development takes place in five fields -- physical, intellectual, social and emotional development, language proficiency and moral progress," he said, adding that the style of growth varies from child to child. But if the parents find development of their child delays, they should be taken to medical profes-

sionals.

"The more we interact with the child, the more connectivity of its brain cells takes place, which is important for the child's intellectual growth. So, it is important to continue stimulating activities with the child," he said.

Prof Shamim F Karim of the department of psychology, Dhaka University, said, "It is very unfortunate that still there are schools where the tiny students are beaten by their

teachers. But actually it is quite impossible to engage the children in specific work by scolding or threatening. Rather, positive reinforcement is more effective."

Wahida Banu, chairperson of BSAF, moderated the seminar while Secretary for the ministry of Health and Family Welfare Zafar Ullah Khan was present as the chief guest and Mahmudul Kabir, country director, TdH-Netherlands was present as the special guest.

Keep essentials' prices at tolerable level

President asks businesspeople

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the business community to keep the market prices of essentials at tolerable level.

"Keep the prices of essential commodities at tolerable level," he told a delegation of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), led by its president Hossain Khaled, who called on him at Bangabhaban.

The President called upon the business leaders to come forward in aid of the victims of natural

disaster.

The DCCI leaders said the government should monitor the market instead of resorting to any intervention in order to control the increasing prices of essentials.

While monitoring the market, the government should not attempt any step that might further erode the confidence of the business community, they said.

The DCCI leaders submitted to the President a 10-point recommendation, including taking up an integrated plan for reducing the prices of essentials.

Goalpara power plant goes out of order again

13th incident of technical fault at the plant in last 10 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The 110-megawatt power plant at Goalpara Power Station again went out of order on Sunday night due to major technical fault.

This is the 13th incident of technical fault at the plant in last 10 months.

Out of five power plants at Goalpara Power Station at Khalishpur in Khulna city, four are now out of order.

The 60-megawatt power plant has been inoperative since July 5 of 2006. Barge-Mounted Power Plant-1 since August 27 of 2007, and Barge-Mounted Power Plant-2

since December 4 of last year.

Khulna Power Company Limited (KPCL) is now the lone plant supplying only 90 megawatt of electricity a day.

Twenty-one districts of Khulna and Barisal divisions and greater Faridpur, which are under the west zone power distribution company limited, had a loadshedding of 194 megawatt during the peak hour at 7:30pm of Monday.

It was the highest loadshedding in last one year which may continue if the 110-MW power plant does not go into operation by Thursday or Friday, said Chief Engineer Abdul Khaleque of GPs.

Star Campus-Drishy debate final today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The final competition and prize giving ceremony of the debate competition titled 'Star Campus-Drishy Debate for Generation Next' will be held at Mastermind School today.

Poet Abul Momen, resident editor of the daily Prothom Alo will attend the ceremony as the chief guest.

Drishy, a cultural organisation, is organising the competition in cooperation with The Daily Star.

Radio Foorti is the radio partner of the competition.

Reception to Sardar Fazlul Karim

Unitrend Ltd has accorded a reception to eminent scholar Sardar Fazlul Karim recently to honour him for his versatile works and colorful life, says a press release.

Sardar Fazlul Karim was not only a writer and philosopher but also a teacher. He has continued to pursue his writing for the benefit of the nation and its people. His works, encompassing the translations of Plato, Rousseau and Aristotle, will remain in the minds of readers for generations to come.

Chairman and Creative chief of Unitrend Ltd. Munir Ahmed Khan and Managing Director and CEO Zulfikar Ahmed spoke on the occasion while writer Masul Alam elaborated on the life of Sardar Fazlul Karim.

Later, the eminent scholar was honoured with a crest and a cheque for Tk 50,000.

A large number of celebrated personalities and local business dignitaries attended the programme at the Spectra Convention Centre on January 17.



Eminent scholar Sardar Fazlul Karim receives a crest at a reception ceremony organised by Unitrend Ltd in his honour at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city recently.



President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Prof Emajuddin Ahmed inaugurates the 'Nimtolli Gate' in the city yesterday, marking 400 years of Dhaka city.

নেসকাফে-কফিমেট সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০
ভাল বাসার গল্প

আপনার পাতালো সেরা ৫০টি গল্প ছাপা হবে সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০-এর ভ্যালেন্টাইন সংখ্যায়। সবসেরা গল্পটির নাট্যরূপ প্রচারিত হবে বাংলাদেশে। সেরা ২০ গল্পকার পাবেন NESCAFÉ-এর আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার। লেখা পাতাল ২৭ জানুয়ারির মধ্যে।
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